



# Department of Justice

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## **BYRON PERKINS ATTEMPTS TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA**

This morning Judge Thomas Russell concluded a hearing in the Byron Perkins case on a motion to withdraw his guilty plea to robbery, using a firearm during the robbery, and drug trafficking in marijuana entered on November 18, 2005. At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Russell set a briefing schedule and will not rule until briefs have been filed and he has reviewed them. Since the matter is under consideration by the Court, the United States Attorney's Office will not make any comment on the case. Both the defendant and the United States will file briefs which will be available from the Court after they are filed.

There is a second case pending in which Perkins and his girlfriend Lea Ann Howard are charged regarding Perkins' escape and flight to Mexico. Ms. Howard pled guilty this morning to the charges against her in that case. Perkins entered a plea of not guilty to the charges against him when he was arraigned several months ago. He has not changed that plea and that matter is scheduled for further proceedings before Judge Russell on May 29, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

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